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Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 11, 1896.

There were thirty-one members present. President Brown in the chair.

One nomination for corresponding membership was reported by Dr. H. H. Rusby, of Dr. Manuel Gomez de la Mazo, University of Havana, Havana, Cuba.

The evening was devoted to informal reports of summer observations and experiences. The Secretary spoke of collections in the White Mountains, and on the Massachusetts Coast and near Lake Erie. He reported the discovery of a locality for *Aster phlogifolius* in fine typical development at Pelham Manor, adjoining New York City.

Dr. Britton spoke of the progress made at the Botanical Garden, especially in the advancement of the museum building, and reported the prosperous condition of the herbaceous grounds, now with over 2,700 species, a mass of bloom during the season. One day in July the visitors to the grounds numbered 4,000. Interesting questions of specific identity are being confirmed by cultivation at the garden, as in case of *Potentilla pumila.*

Dr. Britton also announced the forthcoming scientific expedition to Porto Rico, Mr. A. A. Heller going as botanist under the auspices of the New York Botanical Garden through the liberality of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Dr. Underwood reported collections in the forests of Thüringen and examination of fern types at Berlin and Kew. He referred to the excellent preservation of the plants of Willdenow at Berlin, and to the strength of the Berlin herbarium, enriched among the ferns by the annotations of Prantl, the collections of Mettenius, Maximilian Kuhn, and the Hawaiian herbarium of Hildebrand. Dr. Underwood described the botanical garden laid out by Professor Engler in Berlin, exhibiting modern ideas of geographic distribution. He also spent some weeks at Kew.

Dr. Rusby reported a summer spent largely in procuring material for the study of drugs in powdered condition. Drugs now come chiefly to the pharmacist powdered, and adulterants are less easily recognized.

The search for genuine *Apocynum cannabinum*, with broad, thick leaves, woolly beneath, has proved disappointing, *A. album*, with recurving habit, replacing it in the region about New York City. Dr. Rusby also reported the rediscovery of *Euonymus atropurpureus*, rare near New York, found near Little Falls, N. J., at an excursion of this club in June last.

Mr. A. A. Heller spoke of his experience in the Olympic Mountains, where the continuous rains interfered with collections. Ferns grew in great profusion and often five feet high, but of few species. The Salmonberry varied from yellow to deep red, and was often an inch in diameter, on bushes ten feet high. *Oxalis Oregana* made a fine display, as also several species of *Vaccinium*, *V. parvifolium* with red, and *V. ovalifolium* with blue berries. An introduced blackberry, *Rubus laciniatus*, is now well established there, blooming from July to Christmas, and known as the Evergreen Blackberry. *Spiraea Menziesii* grew up by the streams, with its rose-colored spike a foot and a half high. *Lilium Columbianum* appeared in the meadows. There were not many representatives of any family; only about twenty composites out of 230 plants collected, of grasses about thirty-five. In August and September Mr. Heller collected in Texas and Arkansas with marked success.

Professor Lloyd reported a summer spent in study in the laboratory of Professor Goebel, at Munich, and commented upon the botanical garden there, which, although of but a few acres, is exceedingly well arranged for educational purposes.

Dr. M. A. Howe reported work on the hepaticae, and his discovery, on a hemlock stump in the New York Botanical Garden, of genuine *Cephalozia connivens* for the first time in the United States, the plant distributed by Austin under that name proving a different species.

Dr. Small spoke of work in Tennessee, and Mrs. Britton in the Adirondacks and elsewhere. Miss Ingersoll exhibited photographs of *Cypripedium spectabile.* Miss Sanial called attention to the color variation in *Monotropa uniflora* at Sterling, New York, where she found a region in which all the specimens were pink.

Mr. Clute reported work on the sand barren flora of eastern Long Island. Among his collections were *Dryopteris simulata*, only once before recorded from New York State ; *Kneiffia Alleni*, new to North America ; *Pogonia verticillata*, in quantity near Southampton ; *Kalmia latifolia*, within twenty-five feet of the sea-level ; *Potentilla pumila* and *P. Canadensis* growing together without intermediate forms.

Discussion regarding violets followed. Professor Britton exhibited some fresh flowers of *Viola cucullata*, borne on peduncles normally cleistogene, and with some of the flowers transitional in character. President Brown spoke of similar flowering in *V. sagittata*. Dr. Britton and the secretary reported their collecting cleistogenes of *V. Atlantica* this season for the first time.

Mr. Clute spoke of his study of the cleistogenes in *V. cucullata*, *V. ovata*, *V. rostrata* and *V. Canadensis*, and of their development during the heat of summer. He observed the need of cool temperature to secure free flowering in *Viola*, as also seen in the greenhouse cultivation of pansies. Mrs. Britton called attention to the continuous summer blooming of *V. tricolor* in the cooler climate of the Adirondacks and of the Alps. Mrs. Britton also reported the collection at Lake Placid of *Viola arenaria*, for the first time in New York State.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 26, 1898.

The evening was one of severe and continuous rain and ten persons only were present.

In the absence of other officers Professor Underwood presided.

The resignations of Miss Amy Schüssler and of Mr. Wm. C. Witter were accepted.

Dr. Underwood was made chairman of a committee to make arrangements for courtesies to visiting botanists of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology at its approaching session at Columbia University, beginning December 27. He was empowered to select his associates on the committee and to report at the next meeting of the club.

The scientific program consisted of a paper by Mr. W. A. Bastedo on " The Pharmacology of Sassafras," read by title in the absence of its author ; and a paper by Dr. N. L. Britton on " A new *Helianthus* from Long Island." Dr. Britton told the story of the discovery of this new species, which appears to be an ally of *H. Maximiliani* of the West, and which was found by Dr. Britton, near Sag Harbor, on July 16, 1898.

Dr. Underwood discussed the too prevalent neglect of rootstock characters, seldom represented in herbaria, but often widely separating species otherwise too closely grouped together, as in *Struthiopteris* and *Onoclea.*

Miss Ingersoll called attention to potatoes exhibited at the instance of Dr. Rusby. These tubers were themselves penetrated to the center by tuberous rootstocks apparently of *Cyperus esculentus.*

NOVEMBER 8, 1898.

There were twelve persons present. Mr. A. A. Heller in the chair, in the absence of the regular officers.

Dr. Underwood reported as his associates upon the committee for entertainment of visiting botanists of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology at its first visit to New York on December 29 and 30, the following names: Dr. Britton, Dr. Rusby, Professor Burgess and Professor Lloyd.

The papers due were the following:

Mr. Marshall A. Howe, "Remarks on some undescribed Californian Hepaticae."

Mr. George V. Nash, "New and noteworthy North American Grasses."

Their authors being absent, and but a small attendance present, it being election night, they were on motion postponed to the next meeting.

Mr. A. A. Heller reported from the recent Staten Island excursion that *Baccharis* was found in very handsome fruiting state near the beach, and tall specimens of *Azalea viscosa* reaching twelve feet.

Dr. Underwood suggested that the Field Committee continue Saturday excursions later, on account of the interest attaching to winter stages of the higher plants and especially to the numerous lower plants for which the best collecting time is from October to May.

NOVEMBER 30, 1898.

Eighteen persons present. President Brown in the chair.

The following nominations for membership were made: By Dr. N. L. Britton, Dr. Joseph J. Sleeper, 104 West 83d Street; By Dr. Underwood, Mr. Tracy E. Hazen, Columbia University; Miss Mary A. Nichols, 256 West 84th Street.

The club listened to the following reports:

In behalf of the committee on entertainment, Dr. Underwood reported in favor of extending a reception to the Society of Plant Morphology on the evening of December 27.

Dr. Britton reported a communication from Mr. C. L. Pollard announcing the recent foundation of the Washington Botanical Club, and moved that as a club we tender it our greeting through our Secretary. This was adopted and the Secretary accordingly communicated this greeting to the Washington Botanical Club.

Discussion was called up by Dr. Britton relative to the program from the Field Committee. It was agreed that an opportunity for field meetings be provided on Saturdays after the first of January, for the purpose of studies of cryptogams and of winter stages of higher plants.

The scientific program followed.

The first paper was by Dr. Marshall A. Howe, "Remarks on some undescribed Californian Hepaticae," and consisted of the description of three new species, soon to be published. Beautiful plates illustrating these species were exhibited, the work of Dr. Howe, which with others will form a forthcoming volume of the Memoirs of the Torrey Club.

The second paper was by Professor Francis E. Lloyd, on "The Nucleus in certain Myxomycetes and Schizophyceae." Mr. Lloyd remarked that the work of Strasburger (1884) and later of Lister, gives evidence that the nucleus of the Myxomycetes is a definite organ possessed of a nuclear membrane, and containing chromatin. During cell-division, the chromatin is segregated into rounded masses lying in the nuclear plate; a spindle is formed. After the formation of a fine nuclear membrane about the daughter nuclei, the spindle fibers gradually disappear. The small number of these parallel fibers and absence of a cell-plate led Strasburger to compare the nucleus to the animal rather than the plant type. Precisely similar conditions are, however, found in some plant cells.

The presence of a nucleus in the Schizophyta has been a point of controversy. Bütschli asserts the nuclear character of the central body, and regards the red granules as chromatin. A. Fischer denies the accuracy of the former's conclusions, the question remaining an open one. When our knowledge is complete it is highly probable that the nucleus will be found to be of the distributed type, of a type therefore comparable to that of the simpler protozoa. In any case the nucleus of the lower plants is much more primitive than that of the Myxomycetes. We are led therefore to regard these curious, much-debated forms, the Myxomycetes, as either plants of a higher type than the Schizophyta which have degenerated, or as animals related probably to the Sporozoa. For the former view there is now little evidence.

The secretary addressed the club briefly regarding the discarded species *Aster gracilentus* T. & G., and exhibited its type to the members. This formed a sheet of the herbarium of M. A. Curtis, now at Princeton, and was exhibited through the courtesy of Professor Geo. Macloskie of that university.

Dr. Howe exhibited a number of examples of *Wolffia*, discovered floating in Van Cortlandt Lake, constituting the third recorded collection within New York State of this minutest of flowering plants.

Dr. Britton reported two interesting additions to the collections of the New York Botanical Garden:

1st. A valuable collection of photographs and apparatus illustrating the cultivation of the poppy in Asia Minor.

2d. A gift from Mr. Peter Barr, the English horticulturist, of a collection of *Narcissus* and *Paeonia* for planting in the Botanic Garden. The claim of free entry as museum material was at first refused by the New York Custom House, but after five different appeals, the final decision was that the material was proper to an outdoor museum, and free entry was granted.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,
Secretary.